



(S//SI) Installation of 'Big Dish' at Intelligence HQ in Budapest

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(S) A 6.3-meter parabolic dish antenna was recently installed on the roof of the Hungarian Military Intelligence Organization's Headquarters in Budapest -- but this is not the beginning of the story! The requirement for the antenna actually began over four years ago. Obtaining and installing the antenna was a team effort that involved several people and different organizations.

(S) Engineers from [ETC](#) compiled the requirement and wrote the specification to purchase the antenna; personnel from [FAD](#), with the assistance of the NSAW antenna team, ordered the antenna. When the antenna arrived at Fort Meade this spring, the antenna team took on the job of inspecting the components for conformity with the specification and managing the construction of a template needed for installing the antenna in its new home in Budapest.



(U) Construction of the antenna finally begins with the lifting of the pedestal

(S) Although 6.3 meters may not sound that big, shipment of this antenna from NSAW to Budapest turned out to be a mammoth task. It took three shipping containers, two 40-feet long and one 20-feet long, to hold all of the antenna parts and installation tools. That's 100 feet of shipping containers and that is a lot of stuff! Ironically, it was the small overnight air shipment of pre-installation items that went astray and nearly ended up last to arrive in Budapest.

(S//SI) The eight-member-strong installation team was co-led by [REDACTED] from NSAW and [REDACTED] of ETC. When asked for the status of the installation, [REDACTED] the newly arrived SLO (SIGINT Liaison Officer) in Budapest, said, "It was quite awesome to see, especially since I've never attended an antenna installation before now. The crane cleared the entrance by about one foot. The weather cooperated 100%. Bright blue sky and no wind . . . All eight members of the team were busting butt and doing heavy labor stuff. Of course, I simply stayed out of their way."

(U) Later in the week the temperature in Budapest soared to a record high of 100 degrees Fahrenheit, creating oven-like conditions in the radome where the installation was taking place. Everyone persevered, with a constant supply of water and sodas provided by the partner, and completed the antenna installation on 6 June.

(U) [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] agreed that each person on the team brought a unique skill to the table and played a crucial role. [REDACTED] reported, "Everything went incredibly well. We couldn't have asked for a better team, and I don't think that the Hungarians could be happier."

(S//SI) With the antenna in place, plans are underway for a survey using this and other Hungarian partner antennas in Budapest. The hope and expectation is that we will be able not only to confirm Hungarian collection, processing and analytic capabilities against Russian COMSATS and Russian links on other satellites, but that we will also be able to identify the traffic on and capabilities of various platforms, including the recently launched Yamal and Express-AM series satellites.



(U) It's starting to look like an antenna!

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